(a) whether it is a fact that Speed Post Service of Postal Department is not a efficient as the private couriers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any compensation is paid to the customers in case of late delivery of Speed Post; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In case of delay in delivery of domestic speed post articles beyond the norms determined by the Department of Posts from time to time, compensation is paid that is equal to the speed post charges.

Basic Telephone Facility

598. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages that are left out in Rajasthan where basic telephone facility is not provided till today;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the telephone facility would be provided to all villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Out of 39,753 inhabited villages in the State of Rajasthan as per Census 2001, 38,645 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs). The remaining 1,108 villages have been planned to be covered with VPTs progressively in a phased manner by February, 2011 with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Broadband coverage in Panchayat

599. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making efforts for broadband coverage to reach every Panchayat in three years;

(b) if so, the complete details worked out so far; and

(c) the status of such coverage in Andhra Pradesh rural agency areas under each Panchayat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of about 2.5 lakh Gram

Panchayats across the country, 30,000 Gram Panchyats have been provided with broadband connectivity. It has been planned to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats in a progressive manner by the end of 2012.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), under its Rural Wireless Broadband Scheme, has planned to provide connectivity to about 5 lakh villages in a phased manner. USOF has also signed an agreement with BSNL for subsidy disbursement for providing 9 lakh wireline broadband connections including customer premises equipment and computer/computing devices in rural and remote areas.

(c) Out of 21389 Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh, 6871 Gram Panchayats are broadband enabled. The status of broadband coverage in these Gram Panchayats is given in the Statement.

Statement

Gram panchayats - coverage by broadband in Andhra Pradesh circle

Status as on 29.06.2009

Sl. No.	Name of Secondary Switching Area (SSA)	Total No. of Panchayats	Covered by Broadband	Balance pending
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Adilabad	866	182	684
2.	Anantapur	960	364	596
3.	Chitoor	1380	692	688
4.	Cuddapah	750	32	718
5.	East Godavari	975	538	437
6.	Guntur	988	493	495
7.	Hyderabad & Rangareddy	691	42	649
8.	Karimnagar	1188	506	682
9.	Khammam	763	470	293
10.	Kurnool	879	255	624
11.	Krishna	963	320	643
12.	Mahabubnagar	1344	451	893
13.	Medak	1059	52	1007
14.	Nalgonda	1143	203	940
15.	Nellore	945	536	409
16.	Nizamabad	681	367	314
17.	Prakasam	1008	61	947
18.	Srikakulam	1083	198	885

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Visakhapatnam	944	36	908
20.	Vizianagaram	924	270	654
21.	Warangal	989	225	764
22.	West Godavari	866	579	287
	TOTAL :	21389	6872	14517

Revised Information Technology Act

†600.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions made under the revised Information Technology Act passed by the Indian Parliament following terrorists attack on Mumbai;

(b) whether Government are in agreement with the fact that people may be deprived of their privacy and freedom on the internet under the provisions of this Act;

(c) Government's position in this regard; and

(d) the kind of a guarantee Government proposes to give to people with regard to their privacy and freedom on the internet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) The Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 *inter-alia* include provisions for addressing protection of critical information infrastructure; privacy of information held in computer systems and networks, breach of confidentiality and privacy, audit of electronic records, enabling public-private partnership in the area of e-Governance, conclusion of contract through electronic means, dishonestly stolen computers or communication device, spam, identity theft, cheating by personation, violation of privacy, cyber terrorism and child pornography. The provisions also empower Government to prescribe guidelines for making service providers and intermediaries accountable and responsible towards consumers/subscribers.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The focus of amendments in the Information Technology Act is to strengthen security and privacy of data.

(d) The Information Technology Act, 2000 alongwith the amendment proposed through the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 provides for privacy of information held in the computer systems and networks. Section 43, 43A, Section 72 and Section 72A of the Act address the issue of breach of confidentiality and privacy. Section 43A fixes the responsibility on the body corporate and companies to adequately protect the sensitive data or information which they own, possess, control or operate. Section 72 provides penalty for breach of confidentiality and privacy. Section 72A provides for breach of lawful contract which will prevent any intermediary and service

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.